

NINTH ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

BROOKLYN UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

---

ORGANIZED, NOVEMBER, 1866.

INCORPORATED, JUNE, 1871.

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531 FULTON STREET,

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

NOVEMBER, 1875.

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## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

ROBERT FOSTER,	<i>President.</i>
JOS. R. BLOSSOM,	<i>First Vice-President.</i>
JOEL W. STEARNS,	<i>Second Vice-President.</i>
MISS CARRIE J. TITUS,	<i>Secretary.</i>
ISAAC H. CARY, JR.,	<i>Treasurer.</i>

## ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS.

REV. A. P. PUTNAM,	}	1878.
S. B. NICHOLS,		
WILLIAM C. GARDNER,		

D. B. HALSTEAD,	}	1877.
MISS ELIZA JENKINS,		
SYLVESTER SWAIN,		

REV. H. R. NYE,	}	1876.
REV. S. H. CAMP,		
MRS. F. HUSSEY,		

# ANNUAL MEETING.

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November 14th, 1875.

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The Union met at the Church of the Saviour, corner Monroe Place and Pierrepont St., at half-past seven o'clock; Prof. Robert Foster, President, occupying the chair.

The exercises were opened with an anthem by the choir; a portion of Scripture was read by Rev. Dr. Putnam, and prayer was offered by Rev. S. H. Camp. The audience then united in singing the 619th Hymn of the church collection.

The Treasurer submitted his annual statement, and the President his annual report.

The election of officers being next in order, the following ticket was presented, balloted for, and declared elected: For President, Robert Foster; for First Vice-President, Jos. R. Blossom; for Second Vice-President, Joel W. Stearns; for Secretary, Miss Carrie J. Titus; for Treasurer, Isaac H. Cary, Jr.; Director, 1875 to 1876, Rev. S. H. Camp; Directors, 1875 to 1878, Rev. A. P. Putnam, S. B. Nichols, and W. C. Gardner. A solo was then given by Miss Ida Hubbell, the soprano of the choir.

Mr. W. H. Baldwin, President of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union, followed with an interesting address, which is printed in full and submitted with the annual report. The Rev. Dr. Putnam, Ripley Ropes, Esq., and Rev. H. R. Nye, being called upon to address the meeting, responded briefly.

The President tendered the thanks of the Union to the Trustees of the Church of the Saviour for the use of their edifice, and for liberal aid in various forms in this and previous years. After the singing of a hymn, the assembly was dismissed with the benediction by Rev. Mr. Nye.

# PRESIDENT FOSTER'S REPORT.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The proceedings of this evening will complete the ninth year of the history of the Brooklyn Union for Christian Work.

This meeting is called mainly that the Board of Directors may render to you an account of their trust; and the report we have now to offer will briefly rehearse the experience of the past year, and hint at the lessons to be learned therefrom. For a meeting having such objects in view, what day more fitting than that we are wont to call the Lord's Day? What place more appropriate than this "Church of the Saviour?" If, with sincere desire to promote the precious interests represented by the Union, we were assembled on Monday, that would become a day of the Lord to our souls; if, convened in any one of our theatres, we would there be conscious of the presence and inspiration of the Master, whose disciples we are, only as we give of our lives for the life of the world.

You have learned from the Treasurer's statement that the expenses of the year now closing have been about two hundred and fifty dollars in excess of the receipts; and yet no debt has thus been incurred, as the reserved fund balance more than sufficed to make good the deficiency in the receipts. We pray and we trust, however, that from this good hour, the pecuniary benefactions of the friends of the Union will be fully adequate to sustain its various departments as now in beneficent operation. Nay, more, we have hope that, after it shall have been shown you in what fruitful fields the seed of your procuring has been sown; after you shall have learned how, by means and instrumentalities you have furnished, warm hearts, wise heads, and willing hands are laboring day by day to lift up to a higher, purer plane of purpose and of life the Lord's needy children, and your weaker brethren; after you shall have listened to the story of ripe experience in other fields of labor, and to the appeals of consecrated enthusiasm which we know await your kindly hearing, we have hope that you will "devise liberal things," so liberal as to take in view some portion of those outlying

fields of opportunity, which seem to us sacredly included in the scope of our mission. Those familiar with

#### THE PLAN OF THE UNION

are aware that persons of any age or of either sex are admitted, without charge, to share its benefits and advantages. The several agencies, through which the influence of the Union is at present chiefly exerted, are the reading and amusement room for adults, a similar room for boys, class instruction for boys, and a sewing-school for girls. The room for grown people is on the second floor, and, in charge of its faithful and courteous curator, was never more attractive than during the past year. No one in this audience, who has occasionally visited the room, can have escaped the conviction that this one department of the Union, as a moral lever in this not over moral community, is worth many times the cost of the entire enterprise. Indeed, subsidies for its support, from the city funds even, would prove a shrewder, and a more satisfactory investment than certain others which shall be nameless here. In some important respects this reading-room has no counterpart within the city limits. No other, maintained by so small an outlay, ministers to so large a public. No other is so absolutely both unsectarian and non-partisan in its appointments and management. It is, to an extent unexampled, the resort of the members of the various religious persuasions. The editors of the *Congregationalist* and the *Christian Register* discourse side by side at the same table, and no doubt with decreasing repugnance to the arrangement; for each is hopeful of securing the attention to momentous truths of minds drawn thither by the other, and each from week to week discovers in the other more and more of the saving spirit of indwelling love. A large number of persons avail themselves of the facilities furnished at the side-tables in this room for playing at draughts and chess. Formerly, there was an occasional sharp clashing of speech heard at these tables, but of late the intercourse between players has been invariably decorous.

Adjoining the general reading-room, separated from it by railing, or as occasion may require by folding-doors, is the library. This room is for the use of directors, the Class Committees, and any ladies, members of the Union or not, who may desire to read books or periodicals. The library has received some additions dur-



ing the year, and now numbers about sixteen hundred volumes. The number of readers increases rapidly, and, more gratifying to state, there is a marked improvement in the taste of the readers, as manifested by the class and character of the books drawn. The most valuable contribution ever made to the library is the English Encyclopedia in fourteen volumes. It was donated within the past year by one of the Directors, Mr. D. B. Halstead. This work, replete with so much profitable instruction, is already eagerly sought by many readers.

On the third floor is the reading and amusement room for boys. Picture papers and magazines entertain some of the lads, while those who are too tired, or for other reasons disinclined to read, take seats at the checker-tables. In this room there is a stage, a drop curtain, and sundry stage properties, which are used, about once each month, in the musical or dramatic entertainments that always crowd the hall with boys and girls belonging to the Union. The facilities for amusement in this room and in that before described doubtless attract some to the building who are thus saved from the fatal fascinations of questionable resorts. It is the dictate of reason, as of the Holy Scriptures, to "overcome evil with good," to keep the people, younger or older, contented and happy in the practice of temperance and all virtue. Recent examination of the statistics of crime reveals the not surprising fact, that nine-tenths of the city criminals are to be found lurking in the low liquor saloons. What are the good citizens of Brooklyn doing to dry up the sources of this evil? Every night in this city, two thousand doors open into halls and saloons, whither the brilliant lights, cheerful companionship, and gay, festive scenes lure to their ruin tens of thousands from the homeless throng; but you may count on the fingers of one hand those popular institutions which, like the Union for Christian Work, minister, at one and the same time, to man's thirst for knowledge, his need of recreation, and his natural appetite for pleasure.

In the fourth story of our building, the boys receive class instruction during four evenings of the week. On Monday, in drawing and engrossing; on Tuesday in penmanship; on Thursday, in reading and elocution; and on Friday, in penmanship again. Arrangements are nearly complete for giving lessons in arithmetic on

Wednesday evenings. The rolls of the several classes show an average attendance of one hundred boys. No one can appreciate the value of this class instruction who is not conversant with its history, so far as to compare the work and the manners of the boys, from year to year, and note especially their better spirit and gentler demeanor.

#### SEWING SCHOOL.

On Saturdays, for several years past, a sewing-school for girls has been held in the boys' reading-room, the session extending from 2 P. M. to 5 P. M. Last January, the ladies in charge of the school effected, at the request of your Board, a thorough reorganization, with Mrs. Rebecca Seaman as First Directress, and Mrs. Louisa Stabler as Secretary. In the yearly report compiled by Mrs. Hamlin Blake, and bearing date the 9th inst., some very encouraging facts are furnished. The teachers, eight in number, began last January with forty-nine scholars. At the close of the season, in the latter part of April, the school had an attendance of over sixty members, and, grouped in classes of five each, fully occupied the large floor. It is quite manifest, from the report, that the managers and teachers of the school succeeded admirably in enlisting the interest and awakening the ambition of the young girls in charge. In fifteen weekly sessions, the children made the one hundred and seventeen garments which were presented to them at the close of the season. Better than this, of the sixty-three girls present at the last session in April, forty-seven, without notification in the interim, presented themselves on the 6th instant, to resume their school duties and privileges. These brought with them about thirty new scholars. On the 13th instant, yesterday, the ladies reported one hundred scholars, so that they will require this winter both upper rooms and a double force of teachers.

The instruction in needle work, actually imparted to the members of this school, is by no means insignificant in its bearing upon the possible usefulness of those girls in the coming years; but how does this thriving branch enterprise greaten in importance, when we reflect that these children, by kindly contact with their patient, painstaking, and friendly teachers, cannot but be inspired with a desire to do and be what they learn more and more to admire in

women of cultivated minds, refined manners, earnest and consecrated souls.

You are now informed, members of the Union, in what manner your Board of Directors have discharged their trust. Indulge us yet a few moments while we trace, in rude outline, the plan of a work which we would rejoice to undertake, if only we could secure your consent, your co-operation, your support ; but, be assured, that no steps will be taken in such direction, unless and until the Lord shall, through you, bid us " Go forward."

The Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn accomplishes (we admit it with joy) a vast amount of good, and perhaps there is not an individual within these walls to-night who does not hold its founders and supporters in grateful regard and high honor. And yet, inclination and duty alike forbid that we shall join their ranks. The qualifications for active connection with the Association are such that they inevitably exclude thousands of refined, moral, Christian men, women, and youth, who would rejoice to walk with them and work with them in the Lord's vineyard, if not compelled, in buying a membership ticket, to surrender their self-respect as a part of the price. With all their complicated machinery and costly appointments, then, the Association fails to minister to the needs of the large class described. We speak this not in reproach ; not that we regard the Association as derelict in any duty, as they apprehend it, but simply that we may make more manifest and emphatic the claims upon this union of the fellow Christians whom the Association yet disfellowships.

Are there those in this audience who will unite with others of like liberal sympathies and humane impulses to increase and modify the accommodations and appointments of the Union Rooms, so that, on the agencies now at work for the benefit of the boy Arabs of the city, and of adults who may lack refinement, conventional respectability, and orthodox church affiliation, there shall be grafted means and appliances for offering to clerks, teachers, and others, a moderate range of useful instruction and wholesome recreation ?

#### THE PLAN WE HAVE TO SUBMIT

to you is, in brief, as follows : To engage additional rooms for evening classes in the modern languages, bookkeeping, phonography,

vocal music ; perhaps not all of these at first, but these and more in time ; to establish courses of lectures on chemistry and other branches of science ; to open a gymnasium, with one or two health-lift machines as a part of its apparatus ; to so arrange and fit up some of the new rooms as that they shall be readily convertible into a lecture or social assembly hall ; to have admission to the Union as now, free, or by membership tickets ; to have the membership tickets of different grades and prices, admitting respectively to more or less of the privileges offered.

It is less than two years since the Chicago Union, with a feeble support than that which bears the burden of ours, adopted a plan similar to that we have now imperfectly sketched. Its membership, already in excess of 1,200, renders the Institution nearly self-sustaining. Those friends of this Union who have watched its growing power, and have made careful note of what its rooms in Fulton Street are doing to mold the character, to civilize, uplift, and direct the lives of hundreds of men and youths, marvel, as well they may, how so much can be accomplished, by so few, for so many, and at a cost so trivial.

You, friends, have hitherto placed at our disposal about \$3,500 per annum. After making inquiry in regard to additional accommodation, and estimate generally as to the material and personal force called for by the plan projected, we hazard nothing in promising that, with a subscription list of \$5,000, the Union shall enter and occupy at least a portion of the wider sphere before described. Do you approve the plan ? If so, elect a Board to which you can confide its execution, and express your confidence in the liberal contributions which are essential to success. Do not reply that the times are hard, and we fool-hardy to increase expenses in a period of business depression. Will you not instead give us some credit for self-control in suppressing once more the appeal we have so often longed to make, that you will establish us in a building of our own, one suited to the purposes of the Union, not "the Union as it was" but "the Union as it should be." That project is not abandoned, but postponed only, while the plan already submitted will the better fit all concerned for the profitable use of the new and complete building of the future.

We are unwilling to close this report without reminding you of

the debt of gratitude which all friends of the Union, all lovers of their kind, owe to the members of our class committees; some of these having for three years, twice each week, devoted an otherwise leisure evening to this monotonous routine work. These ladies and gentlemen insist that ample compensation comes to them in the duty discharged, and since they might find it impossible to exercise the Christian grace of forgiveness, were we to make individual acknowledgment here, we forbear to do so. Nevertheless, we would direct your thoughts and your thanks to this Praying Band of our Union. For, are not their deeds among the fervent and effectual prayers of the righteous or right-doing? Do we not know that they convert hundreds to conditions of comparative cleanliness, morality, and saving self-respect? Of this band, one who has been eminently faithful, skillful, and efficient, has recently removed to a distant town. The Lord will be with and will reward him there as here; for, if the gratitude and good wishes of others are potent prayers before the dear Father of all, surely the loving thoughts and earnest hopes which follow him from thousands of lads to whom he has "lent a hand," will secure the truest success in life to our late co-worker and always honored friend, Mr. William A. Butler.

Friends! You have all heard of the custom long prevalent in some heathen lands of writing prayers, and passing the MSS. along the lines of certain machinery, until it should meet the eye of the god besought. If any of you, after having heard the appeals made and to be made to-night, shall be moved to say in sincere petition: "Thy Kingdom Come;" write your prayer (will you not?) in significant figures on the face of a bank check, and intrust it to the agencies of the Union for Christian Work.



# MR. BALDWIN'S ADDRESS.

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MR. ROBERT FOSTER, *President.*

DEAR SIR: In writing out the following address, by your desire, from my notes used at your Annual Meeting, I have included a few points which I had intended to allude to at that Meeting, but passed over for want of time.

BOSTON, *November 29th*, 1874.

Very truly yours, WM. H. BALDWIN.

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MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS OF THE BROOKLYN UNION  
FOR CHRISTIAN WORK:

I can assure you it gives me great pleasure to be with you this evening at this your Annual Meeting for 1875. Most heartily do I congratulate you upon the marked success which has attended the Union heretofore in the important work in which it is engaged.

I have listened with intense interest to the able and carefully prepared report which your President has just presented, which gives evidence of the activity of those in charge of the Union, with results for the past year which cannot fail to be satisfactory to all interested.

I know of no better text to use, as a basis of my address to you this evening, than to take your President's report. Still it rather devolves upon me to attempt to give my own views, and to suggest plans by which your work may be enlarged, and thus the influence of the Union become wider and of even greater importance in this large and flourishing city of Brooklyn.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE OBJECTS OF THIS UNION?

To develop the Religious, Moral, Intellectual, and Social in the many of all ages who may come within the influence of the Union; these should be at the foundation. To each of these special points I will refer again.

WHO SHOULD YOU AIM TO REACH?

Heretofore, your aim has been especially to reach young boys and girls; in this you have done nobly. It is a grand work thus to care for and to help elevate those little ones who, by force of circumstances, so much have needed your protection and assistance.

But I would most earnestly advise you not to stop with caring only for the young boys and girls. I would advise and urge your most careful attention of the young men and the young women.

In this city of Brooklyn, and in the neighboring city of New York, are thousands of young men engaged in business, professions, or other occupations, who make this city their place of residence— young men who have left their homes in various sections of this country, and have come to this great commercial centre, fired with a holy ambition to make a mark for themselves, to secure positions which shall, in the end, give to them that success which they now earnestly desire. These young men, my friends, are truly away from their homes—here, among strangers, exposed to all the temptations of the busy city life. To these young men you owe a great duty—a duty which is of the most vital importance for their future welfare.

How many of you, active business men here present, can at this moment recall the day, the hour, when you left the old homestead to embark upon the active duties of life? How many can remember the sadness of heart with which the dear mother carefully packed the little trunk, and the big tears which rolled from her eyes as she said “good-by” to her boy, and begged of him to be true to himself, to his father and mother, his sisters and brothers, and true to that dear Father above whom he had been taught from his earliest days to love and worship?

Well do I remember, now nearly thirty years since, when my own, now sainted, mother said to her only boy, “good-by;” and well do I recall the anxiety of expression as she thought of the temptations and exposures of city life, and felt that one she so much loved must henceforth be away from the care and protection of his early home.

The wise advice of the kind and counsel-giving father, how many here present will recall, as their thoughts run back to the first parting days at the old home.

With all these associations rushing into the mind, and filling the heart with tender remembrances of early days, surely we must feel that these young men are objects of your special care and protection; that you owe it to them for their own sakes, and you owe it to those beloved parents, many of whom this very evening are praying to Almighty God that He will guard and guide those absent ones who

are so dear to them, far away and exposed to the temptations to evil in these great cities.

Again, I would say, be sure to take good care of the young men of your city.

#### WHO SHALL BE ADMITTED ?

Every one who desires, without regard to church associations or special religious belief.

When that day arrives that the prominent traders in this city, or such well-known houses in New York city as A. T. Stewart & Co., Arnold, Constable & Co., and others, shall have an established rule to ask a lady where she attends church before offering their merchandise for sale to her, then may you consider the expediency of asking young men and others, "Where do you attend church?" the answer deciding the question of admission to the Union; but not until then.

*Christianity, not theology*, should be at the basis of your Union. Open your doors wide and keep them open. Your union is entitled to and should receive the encouragement of all persons in this city who call themselves followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Union must ever be ready to help those who need help. Many a young man who has begun to wander from the paths of virtue and temperance, who has almost forgotten the advice and counsels of the old home—many such may be reached by you. To these, by all means, give the kind word of encouragement and love; throw around such the loving and cheering arms of your Union, and in the end they will have reason to bless you. Should the time ever come—if such a time could be imagined—when we shall have room in the Boston Christian Union to admit but one young man; and then two mothers should enter my office, each bringing their son, each with the desire that her son should join; the one saying, "Here is my son who has ever been true, noble, and right in every way;" the other, with downcast look, saying, "Here is my son; he was a good boy once, but he has been led astray; he has gone out of the path which leads to true, manly character, and now needs the influences and help of the Union,"—if we could take but one of the two young men into the Union, I should say to the mother with the pure and loving boy, "I must ask you and your son to withdraw;" and, turning to the other, would warmly welcome him as a member



of the Union ; hoping thus we might save the son and gladden the heart of the dear mother.

Christ said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

Aim to instill into the minds of the young men the fact that existence is a great blessing, and that they should lead lives which they can look back upon with satisfaction at the close of their earthly career.

Rev. Phillips Brooks, one of our most prominent clergymen of the Episcopal Church in Boston, one whom God has blessed with a noble heart and a clear head, was called upon by one of his people, who, in saddened tones and downcast expression, said: "This life is a mere vale of tears ; there's not much here worth living for." Looking into his face, he replied, with firmness, "I don't agree with you ; I would like to live here five hundred years."

Impress the young men with the great fact that life is not measured by years, but by the character, by good works and deeds.

"Gather up my influence and bury it with me," were the dying words of a young man to the weeping friends at his bedside, as stated to me some few months since by one to whom he was dear. What a sad sentence to come from the lips of a young man just passing away !

My friends, the influence of our lives, whether for good or for evil, can not be gathered up by our friends after our eyes are closed in death, no matter how earnestly we may plead in our last moments on earth.

#### WHEN SHOULD YOUR ROOMS BE KEPT OPEN ?

Every day, Sundays included. Our Boston Union is open from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M., every day of the week. I regard Sunday as the most important day of the seven ; and should a State law or city ordinance be passed compelling the closing of the rooms for one day of the week, and the selection of that day was left to me, I should select any day rather than Sunday.

Think of the many young men who are crowded into large boarding-houses. They cannot afford to have a fire in their rooms. There is one parlor free to the use of the household. What opportunity, I would ask, is there presented for a young man to read quietly, or think quietly, on the Lord's day ?

On the other hand, let your Union rooms be thrown open, well warmed, and then the young man can take his book, and the hours he has to spare on Sunday may there be passed quietly, and profitable to his spiritual well-being.

At our Union in Boston the Reading and Library-room is filled with young men on Sundays; and, as I have been in there from time to time, I have always found it quiet, orderly, and to me a beautiful sight to look upon.

Young men are there reading good books, and writing letters to parents and friends. I tell you, friends, it is the best day in the week for the young men to come to the Union; it is the day upon which you can exert the greatest influence upon them.

I will now refer to objects which I would advise to have kept in mind and carried out.

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS STUDY.

I would strongly recommend practical sermons to the young on Sunday evenings during the entire year—practical sermons by clergymen and laymen of different denominations in your city, or from whatever locality you may get them to serve you.

Now, some here may say they do not believe that ministers of the various denominations would willingly come and preach in your hall. To any such I would say, during the whole course of my experience, I have never found the slightest difficulty in that direction. We have such services at our Union Hall fifty-two Sunday evenings in the year. We have discourses by ministers of all religious denominations, and none have ever declined to preach except when they had previous engagements. They always give practical sermons, not doctrinal, which are greatly enjoyed by the young, and are of much profit and spiritual help to them.

#### SOCIAL SINGING.

At the close of our Sunday evening services we pass into our parlor, and there devote an hour to the singing of sacred hymns and tunes, which the young men and women thoroughly enjoy. You well know how it was in your early homes, when Sunday evening came, how the parents and children gathered around the piano, and all together joined in singing familiar hymns and tunes.

We have this thought in mind as we gather in our Union parlor.

With us, these occasions are always enjoyed—a decided success in numbers and interest, and can be made so by you, I fully believe.

#### LITERARY AND EDUCATIONAL.

This department should be regarded as of very great importance, embracing a variety of subjects and plans, and can be made very successful.

*Lectures*—Scientific and others.

*Readings*—By home and outside talent.

“*Practical Talks*”—Given by gentlemen of large experience in the various departments of business or science, upon subjects relating to their respective departments.

These “Talks” may be illustrated by diagrams, models, etc., and may be made very interesting and instructive. Among the many topics which might be treated in this way, I would mention, cotton, wool, iron, coal, steel, glass, gas, paper, leather.

Other “Practical Talks” upon banking, foreign exchange, the steam-engine, electro-metallurgy, lithographing, etc., would be found of great interest and importance.

There is a great difference between a lecture which a person may stand up and read off, every word carefully, from a written manuscript, and a practical, free, and simple talk.

Now, you have in your city plenty of business, professional, and scientific men, master mechanics, civil engineers, and others, who would be willing to give to your young people a practical talk upon some subject with which, by experience or study, they are familiar.

With us it is understood that, during the evening, any young man may ask the speaker to please further explain any particular point he does not fully understand.

This is a very important branch of Union work, and I hope your President and Board of Government will keep it specially in mind.

#### CLASSES.

Classes might be formed in French, German, Shakespeare, book-keeping, penmanship, vocal music, elocution, parliamentary law, astronomy, mechanical drawing, and other branches of study.

*Debating Society*—This may be made of much advantage and satisfaction to those taking part. With interesting topics, the discussions will be entered into with a hearty will, and become a very important and popular branch of your work.

*A Monthly Paper* (written), containing articles written and contributed by members, could be made a pleasant feature in your educational and literary work.

#### THE SOCIAL ELEMENT.

The social element should be well cared for and encouraged. Monthly social gatherings, of both sexes, old and young (during the winter season especially). Games, such as parlor croquet, chess, checkers, backgammon, cue alley, etc. (games used Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, week-day evenings, and holidays). Tableaux, readings, private theatricals, and other ways to afford innocent and enjoyable amusement.

Rev. Mr. Tilden, of Boston, told me, some few years since, that he had written a sermon on "The Recognition of Friends in Heaven."

Preaching the sermon one Sunday when on an exchange, he was approached by a member of the congregation, as he came down from the pulpit, who said to him:

"Mr. Tilden, I think that ministers had better preach sermons upon the 'Recognition of Friends on Earth,' for I have been in this church nearly twenty years, and I scarcely know a person in it."

We ought to encourage this social element in the young: it will be a great help to them in the formation of their characters.

#### GYMNASIUM.

This would be of great advantage to the Union, and, if properly cared for, would be more than self-supporting.

#### OUT-DOOR EXERCISES.

Such as foot-ball, base-ball, excursions designed to develop a taste for walking, and to give a personal knowledge of places and works of interest; these may be taken evenings, on holidays, or on Saturday afternoons during the season, when many places of business are closed; the Committee bearing in mind the importance of arranging so as not to interfere with the regular business hours of young men as employed.

#### BENEVOLENT ACTION.

A very important department, and can be made to be far-reaching in its work.

"Employment Bureau;" "Boarding and Lodging-House Bureau;" "Savings Bank Bureau;" to promote savings among

young people, by receiving at the rooms sums of money for deposit in an established Savings Bank.

#### COMMITTEES FOR THE CARE OF THE SICK.

"Reception Committee," to welcome those that are strangers, and to introduce them to others. "Church Committee," to furnish seats in the different churches of all denominations, for such young people as desire a regular place of worship, free, or at a moderate expense. "Ladies' Committee," to care for poor children. "New Year's Festival," for poor and needy children. "Thanksgiving Dinner" to young men away from home, and in other ways to accomplish some practical good, by organizing and carrying on benevolent work.

#### UNION COFFEE-ROOM.

This department in the Boston Union was established to afford young men (whether members of the Union or not), who were led to the practice of economy, an opportunity to obtain good and healthy food at a moderate price. It has been self-supporting. The number of meals furnished during the year, previous to the last annual report, was 26,015, at an average cost, per meal, of twenty-one cents.

The spare time which a young man may have, after his dinner taken in the "Union Coffee-Room," passed in the Reading-Room, will readily be seen to be of special advantage to him.

#### WORK.

"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work," were the words of the great Teacher.

These are the days for active work. All who profess to be Christian people should work; our lives are short, and we must do much while we are here. It is not enough to merely own or hire a pew in some one of the many Christian churches of the land, and there be found on Sunday mornings, and possibly at the afternoon or evening service.

We have other duties to attend to in order that we may carry into practice the lessons which were given to the world nineteen hundred years ago, by Him who came to be to us all, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

"What are these?" said Cromwell, as he looked upon twelve silver statues in one of the large cathedrals in his dominion.



"They are the twelve apostles," answered an attendant. Then Cromwell gave one of the noblest orders which ever fell from his lips. "Tear them down, melt them, coin them into money, and send them about doing good, as their Master did."

In many of the churches of to-day we have silver statues—men of real, solid wealth and true worth, of noble, generous hearts and impulses; and all they want to know is, what to do, and how to do it, to aid in the great work of helping humanity.

To such, in this city of Brooklyn, we would say, here is the "Union for Christian Work;" it has much work to be done; become familiar with its officers and its plans; and, as you shall become interested in helping to carry out its plans for the young, and all who come within its influence, you will not only be serving others, but you will find it a relief to yourselves, a pleasant change from your regular routine of business cares.

One of our Boston merchants told me that he had occasion, not long since, to call upon a business man at his office, at about noon. As he entered the counting-room he was informed that the gentleman he wished to see was not in; "but," said his partner, taking out his watch and looking carefully, "he will be back in just seven minutes." "But why, sir, do you say just seven minutes?" asked the visitor. "Because he has gone to dinner; he always takes just ten minutes, and he has now been out just three minutes."

One of the leading physicians of Boston, in conversation with me upon the subject of the great neglect of the laws of health by too close application to business or professional cares on the part of many, stated the following very impressive incident:

About two or three years since, this physician had occasion, with other gentlemen, to address an audience of prominent business and professional men in another city, in order to have them become interested, with others, in a matter of public importance.

Said he, I took for my text the statement that business men and professional men must have some diversion from their regular routine of thought and action. That to run along in one channel continually, the chances were that the result would be either dyspepsia, disease of the brain, or the system otherwise seriously affected.

After he had concluded his remarks before the audience referred to, a gentleman said to him, "Doctor, what do you suppose Mr.—"

(mentioning the name of one of the most prominent business men of that city) says of your address?" "I don't know, sir," was the reply; "what does he?" "Well, he says that 'Doctor ——'s address is all nonsense. Look at me, a strong, hearty, healthy man of sixty-five. I have always attended to business and nothing else, and am to-day as hearty, healthy, and strong as any man in our city.'"

Strange as it may seem, said my informant, that same night this business man was taken with an apoplectic fit, and before morning was a corpse.

Now, I would say to any of our young friends, if they are so bent upon business, profession, or whatever occupation in life, if they have started with the idea that they are going to devote themselves so thoroughly to business, without any relaxation or diversion, the chances are forty-nine out of fifty that before they arrive at middle life they will be in an insane asylum, or, at least, seriously affected, if not completely broken down in health.

So I would say to young men, not only attend faithfully to business, but be sure and divide your time properly between business and pleasure, business and duty.

#### FINANCIAL.

Now, I wish to speak upon one of the most important matters connected with the success of your Union—I mean the financial.

Your President has stated that you have used the past year less than \$4,000. I am surprised that you have done so much with so small an amount of money.

He thinks you ought "to give the Union \$5,000 the coming year."

What! Only \$5,000? I would like to amend that motion, and place the figure one at the left of the five, and make it \$15,000.

I don't like the word "compromise," and therefore shall not propose or accept to meet your President half way, and make the amount \$10,000, but stand for my amendment.

Your Union should have this amount of \$15,000 with which to carry on its work for the year to come, and I fully believe it will receive it.

This amount can be raised, I believe, by systematic work—by the systematic subscription-book. I do not believe in pew collec-

tions whenever you wish to raise a large amount like the one desired by this Union for its year's work.

I would advise you to present your "Book of Donors to the Union" to the ladies and gentlemen of your city—not in any spirit or appearance of begging for the Union, but rather in a frank and pleasant way, presenting to them an opportunity to thus aid you in your grand and glorious work.

I well know the kindness of the ladies and gentlemen of Boston towards our Christian Union.

The people of Brooklyn, I believe, are as wealthy as those of Boston, and if the importance of this Union was fully understood by them, they would be as liberal in their donations; their hearts are as large, their wealth as great.

#### NEW BUILDING FOR YOUR UNION.

As I heard your report being read this evening, I seemed to see in the not far distant future a new building being erected for the Brooklyn Union for Christian work, and I hope and trust I am not visionary when I speak of it.

Your Union has a great work to do in this large and enterprising city, and it needs a building especially arranged for its various departments of work, religious, educational, and social.

I sincerely hope that the public-spirited people of this city will put their heads, hearts, and purses together, and cause to be erected for this Union a building, well located, and in every way adapted to its wants.

In this connection, permit me to refer to the new building now being erected for our Boston Young Men's Christian Union on Boylston Street, near the Common, and which, we expect, will be completed and ready for dedication by the first of next March.

A year ago last spring, we said to some of our friends, we have thoroughly outgrown our present building (which we had hired for several years), and we think we should have a building especially adapted to our work, and owned by the Union. After that, several gentlemen met in our parlor to talk over and consider the matter.

Well do I remember the all-important question propounded to me: "Do you think the ladies and gentlemen will subscribe money



sufficient for the purpose?" to which I replied that I had full faith they would, if the matter was properly presented to them.

We announced our desires by circulars and through the press, the names of the Trustees, Special Committee of the Board of Government, and a Committee of ten life members being thus used; and now, with gratitude in my heart to God, I can say to you that the responses to our call in two months amounted to \$140,000 (one hundred and forty thousand dollars). At this point occurred the Mill River disaster and the floods in the Mississippi valley, and it was deemed both proper and expedient that further calls for subscriptions should be postponed.

The balance of the amount needed we hope to secure in order that the building may be free from incumbrance.

Mr. President, Members, and Friends of the Brooklyn Union for Christian Work, the address which I have now given to you is an address from the heart, I can assure you.

I fully believe in these Unions, instituted as they are with a foundation based upon the determination to help all who come within their influence.

All I can say to you in closing is, go on in this grand work; do all you can towards carrying out fully those objects which you now have, or may have, in view.

If you do this, and I believe that you will, God will give to your Union all that success which you could desire to pray for.

# UNION FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

## TREASURER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
From Subscriptions.....	\$2,824.00	For Refund to Treas., as per last Statement.....	\$ 62.45
" Annual Dues.....	44.50	" Rent of Rooms.....	1,400.00
" Benefit by members of "Amaranth".....	528.45	" Salaries.....	1,210.00
" Rev. H. R. Nye's Society (Collection).....	46.62	" Papers and Periodicals.....	241.20
" Interest on Investments.....	27.47	" Printing and Advertising.....	86.87
" Sale of Old Books and Papers.....	13.84	" Class Materials.....	170.54
" Reserve Fund.....	400.00	" Gas and Fuel.....	357.30
	<u>\$3,884.88</u>	" Repairs and Furnishings.....	174.11
		" Sundries.....	44.75
			<u>\$3,747.22</u>
		Balance in Treasury.....	137.66
			<u>\$3,884.88</u>

BROOKLYN, NOV. 13th, 1875.

ISAAC H. CARY, Jr., *Treasurer.*

## LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1874-5.

A. A. Low.....	\$400 00	Seth Low.....	\$ 20 00
Mrs. Wm. H. Cary.....	200 00	E. H. Arnold.....	15 00
“ G. W. Baxter.....	200 00	Geo. M. Olcott.....	15 00
Alex. M. White.....	150 00	Wm. Meldrum.....	12 00
George S. Cary.....	100 00	Harry E. Dodge.....	10 00
Nath. H. Cary.....	100 00	B. F. Delano.....	10 00
John W. Frothingham.....	100 00	Chas. Field.....	10 00
E. H. R. Lyman.....	100 00	S. N. Hoyt.....	10 00
James S. Noyes.....	100 00	J. M. Leavitt.....	10 00
Ripley Ropes.....	100 00	Duncan Littlejohn.....	10 00
J. P. Robinson.....	100 00	Mrs. C. Mali.....	10 00
Eli Robbins.....	60 00	H. S. Manning.....	10 00
Isaac H. Cary, (Boston).....	50 00	Mrs. B. F. Seaver.....	10 00
James Cassidy.....	50 00	Sam'l H. Seaman.....	10 00
Josiah O. Low.....	50 00	Fred'k Andree.....	5 00
Robert F. Smith.....	50 00	H. W. Calef.....	5 00
Thomas T. Smith.....	50 00	G. F. Cutter.....	5 00
George B. Archer.....	25 00	T. L. Clark.....	5 00
Joseph R. Blossom.....	25 00	J. W. Emery.....	5 00
George C. Brackett.....	25 00	Mrs. H. L. Ferris.....	5 00
Miss Clara Baxter.....	25 00	Mrs. Sarah Frost.....	5 00
James Charlton.....	25 00	Henry Harteau.....	5 00
Isaac H. Cary, Jr.....	25 00	S. B. Jones.....	5 00
Robert Foster.....	25 00	Thos. W. Jenkins.....	5 00
Isaac H. Frothingham.....	25 00	Sidney V. Lowell.....	5 00
S. W. Green.....	25 00	Fred'k Loeser.....	5 00
Wm. C. Gardner.....	25 00	Louis Liebman.....	5 00
F. Hathaway.....	25 00	S. B. Nichols.....	5 00
D. B. Halstead.....	25 00	Capt. Nath. Putnam.....	5 00
Miss H. R. Hough.....	25 00	Henry Poor.....	5 00
Mrs. Sam'l Harding.....	25 00	Mrs. Josiah Partridge.....	5 00
James Littlejohn.....	25 00	James F. Redhead.....	5 00
R. H. Manning.....	25 00	Miss S. E. Gibbs.....	4 00
Capt. L. McKay.....	25 00	Mrs. J. R. Hudson.....	3 00
R. W. Ropes.....	25 00	Mrs. Vinton.....	3 00
J. W. Stearns.....	25 00	Mrs. S. W. Smith.....	2 00
Alfred Thompson.....	25 00	Miss S. F. Thompson.....	2 00
Alfred T. White.....	25 00	Dr. Wm. H. Thayer.....	2 00
J. F. Whitney.....	25 00	Cash.....	5 00
Mrs. Chester Billings.....	20 00	Cash.....	1 00
Edgar W. Crowell.....	20 00		

Total Subscription, .. .. \$2,824.00

# STANDING COMMITTEES, 1875 & '76.

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## FINANCE.

ISAAC H. CARY, JR.  
D. B. HALSTEAD,  
S. B. NICHOLS.

## EXECUTIVE.

S. SWAIN,  
JOS. R. BLOSSOM,  
J. W. STEARNS.

## EMPLOYMENT.

J. R. BLOSSOM,  
REV. H. R. NYE,  
S. B. NICHOLS.

## LECTURES AND ADDRESSES.

REV. A. P. PUTNAM,  
J. W. STEARNS,  
D. B. HALSTEAD.

## LIBRARY AND AMUSEMENTS.

REV. S. H. CAMP,  
W. C. GARDNER,  
MRS. F. HUSSEY.

## BENEVOLENCE.

MISS C. J. TITUS,  
MISS E. JENKINS,  
MRS. F. HUSSEY.



